

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR PM DIRECTOR GELB

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, US, GW
SUBJECT: US-FRG DISCUSSIONS ON ARMS TRANSFER

REFS: A) STATE 36979; B) BONN 2899

1. DR. CITRON, WHO SAT IN AS AMBASSADOR RUTH'S REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE FEBRUARY 23 US/FRG DISCUSSIONS ON ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINTS, TOLD US PRIVATELY OF HIS OWN DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE GERMAN PERFORMANCE DURING THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS. CITRON FELT THAT THE FRG SIDE, IN THE PERSON OF DR. MATTHIAS, WAS NOT AS WELL REPRESENTED OR PREPARED AS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO ENGAGE IN A SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE ON THE ISSUE OF ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINTS, A TOPIC WHICH IS TAKING ON INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN THE FRG.

2. CITRON WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE KNEW DR. PABSCH WAS MUCH BETTER QUALIFIED TO SPEAK ON THE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION AND THAT PABSCH APPARENTLY HAD A NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH HE WANTED TO MAKE. MATTHIAS' LACKLUSTER CHAIRING OF THE TALKS NEVER PRO-
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VIDED OR CREATED THE FORUM FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FRG DELEGATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DIALOGUE IN A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION.

3. AT FIRST HEARING ONE COULD ASSUME THAT CITRON'S COMMENTS WERE AN ELEMENT OF THE CONTINUING INTERNAL DISPUTE WITHIN THE FONOFF REGARDING WHERE THE LOCUS

OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARMS TRANSFER CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES SHOULD REST. THIS IS NOT THE CASE, HOWEVER, SINCE THE SUBSTANCE OF CITRON'S COMMENTS HAVE BEEN VOICED BY OTHERS IN THE FONOFF.

4. CITRON, WHO RETURNED TO FONOFF AFTER A TOUR AS CHIEF OF THE FRG'S POLITICAL SECTION AT NATO, WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY HIS NATO COLLEAGUES AND HAS MADE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON US AS WELL. HE IS NOW OFFICE DIRECTOR OF REFERAT 220, RESPONSIBLE FOR DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL ISSUES (WORLDWIDE), WORKING DIRECTLY FOR AMBASSADOR RUTH.

5. FRG GENERAL REACTION TO THE BILATERAL WAS MOST POSITIVE, WITH THE HOPE FOR EARLY FOLLOW ON TO THE INITIAL MEETING. FONOFF SOURCES APPEAR DETERMINED TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR NEXT ROUND AND TO PROVIDE A MORE SUBSTANTIAL SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTION.
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